

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of regenerating a filter of a diesel exhaust particulate filter system, said method comprising as steps:
 - providing a porous membrane in the form of a stainless steel fiber web;
 - using said membrane as a filter during a filtration period; and
 - using said membrane as a surface combustion burner membrane during a regeneration period following said filtration period.
2. (Previously Presented) A method of regenerating a diesel exhaust particulate filter system, comprising:
 - providing at least two porous membranes in the form of a stainless steel fiber web;
 - using at least one of said membranes as a filter during a filtration period; and
 - using at least one of the remaining membranes as a surface combustion burner membrane during a regeneration period which overlaps with said filtration period.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:
 - providing fuel to said membrane during the regeneration period.
5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein said fuel is diesel.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

monitoring a pressure across said membrane during the filtration period.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, said method further comprising the step of:
generating a control signal to regenerate said membrane, once the pressure across said membrane exceeds a predetermined level.
8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein during said regeneration period the amount of fuel provided is reduced after initiation of a flame at said porous membrane.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, said method further comprising the step of providing fuel to said membrane during the regeneration period.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, said method further comprising the step of:
monitoring a pressure across said membrane during the filtration period.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, said method further comprising the step of:
monitoring a pressure across said membrane during the filtration period.
15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, said method further comprising the step of:

monitoring a pressure across said membrane during the filtration period.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said stainless steel fiber web is completely metallic.
17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said stainless steel fiber web is completely metallic.
18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said stainless steel fiber web comprises a fiber medium having a fiber diameter of about 22 μm .
19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said stainless steel fiber web comprises a fiber medium having a fiber diameter of about 22 μm .
20. (Previously Presented) An exhaust particulate filter system, comprising:
 - a first fiber web filter for filtering an exhaust flow;
 - a second fiber web filter for filtering said exhaust flow;
 - a fuel supply coupled to said first fiber web filter and to said second fiber web filter; and
 - a valve unit configured to:
 - direct said exhaust flow to said first fiber web filter when directing fuel to said second fiber web filter to have said second fiber web filter function as a second surface combustion burner membrane; and
 - direct said exhaust flow to said second fiber web filter when directing fuel to said first fiber web filter to have said first fiber web filter function as a first surface combustion burner membrane.
21. (Previously Presented) The exhaust particulate filter system according to claim 20, wherein said first fiber web filter and said second fiber web filter each comprise a stainless steel fiber web filter.

22. (Previously Presented) The exhaust particulate filter system according to claim 20, wherein said first fiber web filter and said second fiber web filter are completely metallic.
23. (Previously Presented) The exhaust particulate filter system according to claim 20, wherein said exhaust flow comprises a diesel exhaust flow.
24. (Previously Presented) The exhaust particulate filter system according to claim 20, wherein said fuel supply comprises a diesel fuel supply.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the action of providing a porous membrane comprises providing a porous membrane in the form of a stainless steel fiber web of a Fe-Cr-Al alloy.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the action of providing at least two porous membranes comprises providing at least two porous membranes in the form of a stainless steel fiber web of a Fe-Cr-Al alloy.
27. (Previously Presented) The exhaust particulate filter system according to claim 20, wherein both of said first and second fiber web are made of a Fe-Cr-Al alloy.
28. (New) The exhaust particulate filter system according to claim 20, wherein said system is adapted to direct said exhaust flow in a first direction with respect to the first fiber web filter when directing said exhaust flow to said first fiber web filter and directing fuel to said second fiber web filter, and wherein said fuel is directed in a second direction substantially opposite to said first direction with respect to the first fiber web filter when directing fuel to said first fiber web filter and directing exhaust flow to said second fiber web filter.
29. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein exhaust flow is directed in a first direction with respect to said membrane during use of said membrane as a filter, and

wherein fuel flow is directed in a second direction substantially opposite to said first direction with respect to said membrane during use of said membrane as a surface combustion burner membrane.

30. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the at least one membrane used as a filter during said filtration period is a first membrane used to filter a diesel exhaust flow, further comprising:

using said first membrane as a surface combustion burner after using said first membrane as a filter by directing fuel flow to said first membrane in a direction substantially opposite to the direction of said diesel exhaust flow to said first membrane during said filtration period.